A Warrior is Kind:
A Warrior Without Humility is a Righteous Bully

Please read: **Luke 18:9-14**

What a wonderful person, that ole Pharisee. He was the greatest guy in the room, *just ask him!* He was under the impression that his righteousness was by far and above so much better than that of the crooked tax collector. He even went so far as to thank God that he wasn't like other people. Wow. It appears that he justified himself, instead of being justified by the Justifier. We don't know what happened to the Pharisee after this account, but one can only guess that his decisions were wrapped up in himself, his own concerns, and his personal need to have the world revolve around him.

The Pharisee was a righteous bully. Certainly, he was "right" in what he believed, he was "right" to tithe, and he was "right" to fast. But to take it up a notch above the tax collector puts him in the bully category. Like Mom used to say, "That fella thinks that the sun rises and sets on him!"

Ever met anyone like that? I have, and they trench out for themselves a tough row to hoe. Their decisions impact their loved ones with painful long-suffering. They make themselves the absolute center of the universe, to the demise of their most beloved relationships. They don't care that their decisions affect not only their descendants, but potentially everyone around them.

Our decisions are not for us alone. We must consider those around us, and those who will come after us. We should look forward to the needs of those who will come after us, and what's *good for the Kingdom.*

Read Luke 22:20-24

In verse 21, Jesus reveals a personal anguish. What is it? _____

_____

Read verses 23-24 very carefully. Do the disciples appear to care? _____

What is their main concern at Jesus' statement? _____

_____

This is significant. On the heels of Jesus' most personal heartbreak His disciples turn their focus on themselves and who will be the *greatest*. Jesus answers their self-centered concerns in a most humble way.

Read John 13:2-17

What was Jesus aware of before he began to wash their feet? _____

_____ **John 13:3**

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What kind of a physical position would Jesus have to assume in order to wash feet? _____

_____

Why did Jesus do this? _____

_____ **John 13:14-15**

If we serve others as Jesus served His disciples, will we be blessed? _____ **John 13:17**

Read Luke 22:25-27 and Read John 13:18-30

Who else got his feet washed that night? _____

Did Jesus know that He was washing the feet of His betrayer? _____

Read Philippians 2:1-11

Among the disciples that evening, who was the greatest? _____

Who among them served? _____

> Two things were before His heart as He girded Himself: –first, His conscious Deity; and second, the heartless conduct of Judas. But neither the glory of the Divine relationship, which had given all things into His hands, nor the anguish of a treachery that delivered Him into sinners' hands, chilled the love which bound His heart to the Disciples, or caused it to forget their needs or their sorrows.
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> *—George Williams Bible Commentary © 1994 Kregel*

Jesus' attitude was one of humility, even when He knew the chips were down and what would follow. (Philippians 2:7) He got on His knees and maintained self-control through the whole thing, leaving us an example to follow as we minister to others. Speaking from personal experience, *this is extremely difficult* – especially when we're faced with having to serve someone who is hysterical and out of control. It gets really hard to wrestle their feet into that basin. Often I've been tempted to play the righteous bully card, and have even trumped it with far worse sins.

As we prepare for our next podcast, let us keep our righteousness in check. We will look at a wife in the Old Testament who does a very righteous thing, and then turns around and plays the righteous bully card. Please read Exodus 2:11-21; 3; 4; and Numbers 12.

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